

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 02528 060722Z
ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2880
INFO US MISSION USUN 976

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 2528

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORT, ECOSOC, UN, SHUM, FJ

SUBJECT: FIJIAN CANDIDACY TO THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS,
ECOSOC

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A FIRST
PERSON NOTE FROM THE FIJIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN CANBERRA
ASKING FOR US SUPPORT FOR FIJI'S CANDIDACY TO THE
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE DURING
THE SPRING SESSION OF THE ECOSOC IN NEW YORK DURING THE
LATTER PART OF THIS MONTH. END SUMMARY.

2. TEXT OF FIJIAN NOTE FOLLOWS:

"YOUR EXCELLENCY:

"I HAVE THE HONOUR TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT FIJI
IS A CANDIDATE FOR THE ELECTIONS TO THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN
RIGHTS, SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE SPRING SESSION OF
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK IN
THE LATTER PART OF APRIL, 1978, AND THROUGH YOU, TO SEEK
YOUR GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT DURING THE ELECTIONS.

"OF THE FOUR ASPIRING ASIAN CANDIDATES: JORDAN,
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IRAQ, FIJI AND THE PHILIPPINES, CONTESTING THE SINGLR
VACANCY FOT EH ASIAN REGION - FIJI AND JORDAN HAVE NEVER
BEEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION. IRAQ HAD BEEN A MEMBER
DURING 1956-1961, 1965-1967, 1970-1975 AND THE PHILIPPINES
DURING 1947-1950 AND 1953-1973.

"SINCE BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND, IN

PARTICULAR, OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONISATION, FIJI HAS PLAYED ACTIVE ROLE IN DEALING WITH QUESTIONS RELATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS. WE BELIEVE THAT, IF ELECTED TO THE COMMISSION, FIJI COULD CONTRIBUTE MORE EFFECTIVELY TO THE GREATER REALISATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM.

"FIJI WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT IN THE COMING ELECTIONS.

"PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

(SIGNED) "EPELI V. KACIMAIWAI"

3. EMBASSY HAS REPLIED, ACKNOWLEDGING THE FIJIAN NOTE, SAYING FIJI'S REQUEST IS BEING FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSIDERATION. THE WORDING OF THE FIJIAN NOTE MAKES IT UNCERTAIN WHETHER FIJI HAS RAISED THE MATTER IN WASHINGTON, OR WHETHER FIJI EXPECTS THIS APPROACH TO THE USG TO BE THE DEFINITIVE ONE. IF THIS IS THE ONLY SUCH FIJIAN APPROACH, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE US WITH A FURTHER RESPONSE TO THE EMBASSY'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.
ALSTON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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